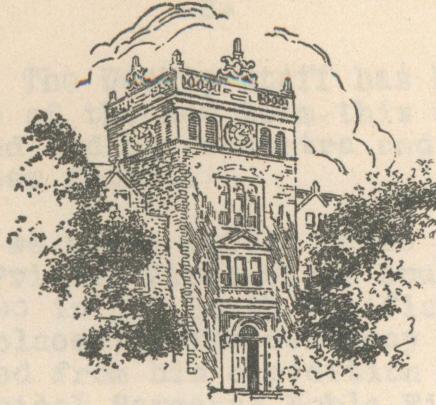


To the

FRONT



from

MUHLENBERG

Number 40
July 29, 1944

Greetings:

The pile of mail that has been accumulating on this desk for the past two weeks is a gentle reminder that once again it is time to get on the ball and start a letter moving to 1201 old and new addresses around the world. The list keeps growing every week and it seems that every time we put these letters in the mail we give Uncle Sam a few more addresses to hunt up for us. This time, for example, we're adding Saipan and some new points in Normandy to the mailing list. The newspapers indicate that in a short time the mail will probably be reaching Guam. Tokyo and Berlin are other objectives. But the day we are really looking forward to is the one when your mail will reach you back home in the good old U. S. A.

With the list of our men in service growing by leaps and bounds and with a few other important jobs ahead of the Alumni Office, we have added an old friend of many of you fellows to the staff. She's Mrs. Arthur Hill--the girl Art Hill, '43 ran around with during his four years in College and whom he ultimately talked into marrying him. Art, a lieutenant in the Marines, shipped out into the Pacific a month or so ago and Kitty came home with little to do but think about him. We thought--and she agreed--that it would help some to be able to think about the rest of you. So, in the future, when we talk about Kitty, as well as Margaret and Our Girl Friday, you will know who we mean. They're the girls who do the work.

It has been so hot around here that the Navy has issued a new regulation permitting Bluejackets and Marines in training on the campus to go to classes without their jumpers and shirts. That has served to introduce all of us to skivey shirts and if the word is not spelled correctly, it's because it is new to us and not to be found in the dictionary. It's rumored that the faculty is petitioning for the same privilege. Any of you fellows who happen to be in Greenland or Newfoundland are plenty lucky right now.

Believe it or not--but it's not too early to begin thinking about football. Doggie has issued his call and will meet the squad on August 10. The season opens September 16 and we'll tell you more about the prospects--we may even stick our neck out--when we have a chance to look over the field after August 10. The Soccer team will get started earlier. Morgan Schaffer has issued his call for candidates to meet him August 2. The soccer schedule will be far more extensive than the football season.

There have been so many requests from you fellows for information about the G. I. Bill and how it will govern your chances to continue your education after the war that we are having a special little pamphlet printed to give you all the dope. You'll be getting it in a few weeks.

Well, the Loyalty Fund was finally closed and you will be hearing nothing more about it after this letter. It reached a grand total of \$7,029 from 895 contributors. That was \$2,000 more than last year and the highest amount ever raised by the fund. It included more than \$1,800 from you fellows in service--for all of which we say thanks again.

Things are humming around here again. The Mask and Dagger club got set for a new season the other day and decided to produce "Journey's End" sometime in September--the first of three plays

scheduled for the year. The Weekly Staff has been reorganized and produced the first issue of the new term this week. There is talk about a good service band and an orchestra and we expect both of them will be formed in the near future.

The other night we had a little taste of what the Victory Reunion will be like. Private First Class Bruce Bauman '42 came back from 27 months of service in the South Pacific (Guadalcanal and Cape Gloucester among other places). The next day Lieutenant Henry Bauman '39, his cousin, returned from his expedition to find Doc Boyer at Fort Benning, Ga. Technical Sergeant Noble Fister (my kid brother) was just finishing his furlough at the same time. Well, the three of them got together and, as promised a long time ago, I kibitzed. If that's a small sample of what the Victory Reunion will be like--well--don't miss it. The reunion started at Bauman's and wound up at Bob Moser's where the talk centered on a few other boys who made their headquarters out there on the Slatington pike.

There have been some requests for news about members of the Faculty. We thought we had been giving it to you from time-to-time, but perhaps we were wrong. Well here is just a little of it: Dr. Fritsch has a leave of absence for the summer and is lecturing in Canada and the New England States. A few weeks ago he and Mrs. Fritsch celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. And talking about wedding anniversaries--Bill Ritter and his Margaret celebrated their fifth on Wednesday. Rumor has it that even though he met his classes on the morning of that day, Bill was mellow and didn't give the boys too much of a workout. King Badger still gets in a few good plugs for Dartmouth and Dr. Johnson is keeping more than busy with his history classes and with his work as Chairman of the Faculty Committee on Post War Planning. The first report of the committee is due to be released in the near future. There'll be more on others next time.

Letters from you fellows keep this letter going--so here goes:

ENSIGN DENNIE BEATTIE '43, who wrote from Italy a few weeks ago, says that he saw a little excitement at Elba and that while some of the shells came rather close, neither ships nor crew suffered any casualties. He added some Italian invasion currency to our growing collection. On his way to England, ENSIGN RICHARD HOLBEN '44 met PRIVATE ERNIE FELLOWS '42 and the two of them spent many happy hours together on board ship. For the past many months, LIEUTENANT F. LEE DIETRICK has been prodding the Pacific from a Navy flattop. He is anxious to get home to see a new son--a Muhlenberg man in eighteen years

ENSIGN CREIGHTON E. FAUST '43, has been in a Naval Hospital for the past two months. His address is: Navy 1955, Fleet Post Office, New York. From friends we've heard that Captain Ralph Harwick, '30 is a patient in a hospital in Italy. That should be a tip for LIEUTENANT COLONEL FRANK M BROWN '19 who has been shifted to duties in a hospital in Italy.

FRED WACKERNAGEL, Jr. '33, a volunteer with the American Field Service, is an ambulance driver with the British and spends his leaves in Naples and Rome. Last autumn he did a little driving around the Sangro River front and in February spent a little while at Casino. When shrapnel hit his ambulance, he was crouching alongside between the ambulance and the road. LIEUTENANT WILLIAM C. GRASLEY '39, who last year at this time was an interne at the Allentown Hospital, is now putting into practice in England what he learned during those long years of schooling.

This is a note particularly for you fellows who know something about the early days of our V-12 Unit. Commander Henry P. Lowenstein, is somewhere in New Guinea. He reports that it has been a wonderful experience to be there but that he will be glad when it is all over and he can get back to civilization once again. I can imagine most of you fellows saying Amen to that.

STANLEY GOLEBIOWSKI, Jr., who was one of the boys in the V-12 Unit has been in the Southwest Pacific since April. When Red Cross Nurses staged a show for SERGEANT TUSS BECKER'S outfit over in India, Tuss was reminded of the Varsity M shows back in the good old days at Muhlenberg. After being moved and shuffled around quite a bit, PRIVATE JAMES REPPERT '45 has settled down for a while (he hopes) in Australia.

We had a letter the other day from none other than AL PIERCE '42 written on Chinese rice paper, and it came from somewhere in India. With it came a Chinese ten dollar bill for the collection that now is attracting quite a bit of attention in the Library. LIEUTENANT (j.g.) GEORGE SWEDA '43 and LIEUTENANT (j.g.) ROBERT PIERCE '44 went through training together at Philadelphia, Corpus Christi, and in Florida. They are still together somewhere in the Pacific.

Over in Normandy, LIEUTENANT CLARK DIFEENDERFER '42 reports it's still all work and no play. American and British planes flying overhead give the men on the ground a feeling of real comfort. Although Difeenderfer didn't storm the beaches, being a quartermaster, he did get there shortly thereafter. As for France--he has had a bit of wine and cognac, compliments of Herr Hitler, and hopes Adolph will have more waiting when the boys get to Berlin.

CAPTAIN CARL PROEHL '39 datelined his last letter "Saipan, U.S.A.", and says that now he really feels like a full-fledged battle Marine. He has been well right along and the chow is good. The Marines have landed and the situation is under control. ENSIGN BLAIR KRIMMEL '43 serving somewhere in the Pacific, would like to do his four years at Muhlenberg all over again. Chasing his ship across the Pacific, he plowed through the mud at three different places on New Guinea and fought mosquitoes and rats for a place to sleep. When he wrote a few weeks ago, he was still waiting for his ship. SERGEANT CARL RITTER '30 is still in England and is keeping a close check on the service letter. We are doing our best, Carl, to prevent mistakes.

LIEUTENANT NELSON GRAHAM '40 says he has been on the gravy train for so long that now he finds it pretty rugged in New Guinea. He knows how to wash his own clothes and really is learning how to live in the jungle. LIEUTENANT (j.g.) WILMER CRESSMAN '42 is such a good censor that he wrote us a letter, then threw it away because it would not pass his own censorship. He and the Indiana secretary he persuaded to marry him would like very much to celebrate their first wedding anniversary on or about August 14, but they are afraid the Navy will have other plans. TECHNICAL SERGEANT JOE PODANY '42 and the men with whom he is serving in England did a good bit of work to make the invasion a success. The preliminaries, he says, represent a lot of sweat and blood, both British and American, but the reward will be Victory and a return to God's Country and home.

"I left something behind when I left Muhlenberg that July three years ago," Joe wrote. "Now when I think of the war coming to an end, I can only think of one logical place to begin that new life. I have definitely made up my mind that I will come back to Muhlenberg to finish it out." GEORGE BIBIGHAUS '45, with the Navy in the Pacific, says that he could relate some weird and horrible stories of war, but sometimes he can't convince himself that they actually happened. Somewhere on New Caledonia he had a reunion with SEAMAN FIRST CLASS WILLIAM HOLTZ '46 and they spent hours and days recalling years at Muhlenberg.

We had two of those letters that we don't like to receive but that we must report. ROBERT BRILL '46, was killed in the invasion of France and LIEUTENANT JOHN W. SCHMITTHENNER '42 has been reported missing in action over Czechoslovakia since July 2. He was a bombardier on a Flying Fortress.

Now to come back to the boys who are still training in this country-----NELSON F. BRAMER '37 is working for his gold bars at Officers' Candidate School at Camp Lee, Virginia. LIEUTENANT KERMIT K. KISTLER '38, in the District Medical Office of the Coast Guard in Boston, is still pressing for an assignment at sea. SERGEANT W. A. FLOWER '42 and Candidate ANDY DIFEENDERFER '40 had a Muhlenberg bull session in the PX at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Down at Bainbridge, Maryland, SPECIALIST WHITEY KUROWSKI '40 reports that GEORGE HOWATT '40 is doing as good as can be expected in his physical fitness training. CORPORAL ROBERT KRIMMEL '44 took a short hop from Asheville, N. C. to his new base at Greensboro in the same state. W. FRANCIS EISENHARD '32 is getting some more Navy training at Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Since he was discharged from the Army under the twenty-eight year age ruling, JAMES MORRISON '33 has been with the F.B.I.

CHAPLAIN J ALBERT BILLY '29 is now stationed in New Orleans. He says that the Redcoats are still attempting to break through the defenses, but makes it clear that he is not talking about the British soldiers of 1815. John Rebaza, one of our V-12 trainees, stayed at Plattsburgh only long enough to draw an assignment to Cornell.

Talking about the faculty, LIEUTENANT PERRY F. KENDIG is still in charge of the Richmond Field Office of the Naval Intelligence Service in Richmond, Virginia. He would like to see any Muhlenberg men passing through Richmond. The Social Studies Department lost one of its instructors when DONALD G. CARPENTER '33 was commissioned as a JUNIOR GRADE LIEUTENANT and assigned to Navy duties in Washington.

CARL KNOWLES '44 celebrated his twenty-first birthday at Fort Benjamin Harrison the other day. To help him celebrate properly, his First Sergeant put him on K.P. duty which Knowles called "a bit of sadistic humor." LIEUTENANT NORTON BEHNEY '36, on duty at Santa Rosa, California, is anxious to meet any Muhlenberg men in the area.

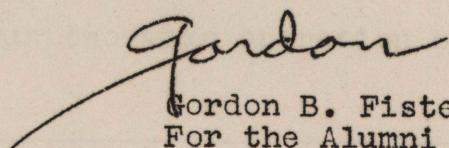
We almost forgot to tell you about our good old friend LIEUTENANT (j.g.) JOHN H. WAGNER '31. The fellow who started these letters about 85 weeks ago, completed his training for Armed Guard duty at Camp Shelton, Virginia and then was sent to New York. After being there for only a few days, he was shifted to the Amphibious Training Command at Solomon, Maryland. There he's putting his education courses into use teaching instructors how to instruct. Talking about instructors, ARTHUR W. BENSON '28 is doing some teaching for the Navy at Camp Peary, Virginia.

LIEUTENANT KENNETH P. LAMBERT '39 has crossed the continent again and now is stationed at Camp Butner, N. C. In the Navy West Coast Sound School at San Diego, California, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) HENRY LUBSEN '38 catches an occasional glimpse of LIEUTENANT (j.g.) RAY BRENNEN '35. Brennen reports a short visit with LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Ray K. Heist '33 when the latter passed through San Diego. HARRISON D. STRAUB '34 is one of three American Red Cross Field Directors who were the first in the National Organization to be awarded paratrooper wings. He is stationed at Camp Forrest, Tenn. and completed his required training with the Seventeenth Airborne Division.

We have some more promotions to report: ENSIGN Frank J. Milnes '44, CAPTAIN Howard Simcox '40, CORPORAL Ralph F. Wetmore '40, SECOND LIEUTENANT William S. Smith '46, CORPORAL Charles Van DeMark '44, LIEUTENANT Marvin R. Geiger '37, SERGEANT James L. Weirbach '46, MAJOR A. Henry Claggett '33, LIEUTENANT Ray Moats '42, CAPTAIN H. Bruce Kuntz '40, SERGEANT Kenneth J. Rogers '46, CORPORAL Luther F. Cressman '42, CORPORAL Henry Kline '45, CORPORAL Ralph Kieffer '29, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Henry A. Lubsen '33, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) P. Leonard Orlando '34, ENSIGN John Psiaki '43, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) George Hawkins '42, ENSIGN Harold V. Stewart '43, LIEUTENANT Paul O. Ritter '24, ENSIGN Morris Efron '32, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Abram Lydecker '42, CORPORAL David Taylor '39, CORPORAL Merle C. Wertz '43, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) R. H. Pierce '43, CAPTAIN Robert H. Peters '37, SERGEANT Warren A. Flower '42, ENSIGN Allen G. Stead '43, LIEUTENANT Karl G. Miller '36, LIEUTENANT COMMANDER Raymond W. Andrews '30, CORPORAL Harold Reaser '45, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Dan H. Smith '27, CORPORAL Ray F. Wahl '34, LIEUTENANT (j.g.) Richard Sampson '44, SECOND LIEUTENANT Robert MacDonough '44, SECOND LIEUTENANT David Silver '41, CHIEF PETTY OFFICER Henry Gutekunst '38.

Somehow or other this letter got ahead of me and there's no space left for the names of the men who have been added to our service roster since the last letter. We'll include them in our next letter. Until then--continued good luck to you and let's hear about any address changes.

Sincerely,


Gordon B. Fister
For the Alumni Office